

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/422,593

Examiner

Andre Boyce

Applicant(s)

LAHEY ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's after final amendment filed April 23, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-13, 16-26 and 29-39.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 7.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**TARIQ R. HAFIZ**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. The following is a response to Applicant's after final amendment filed April 23, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 27, and 28 have been canceled. Claims 3-6, 10, 13, 16-19, 23, 26, 29-32, 36, and 39 have been amended. Claims 3-13, 16-26, and 29-39 are pending.

***35 USC § 101***

2. Applicant's claims are deemed to be statutory and fall within the technological arts, since independent claims 3, 7, 10, and 12 include, inter alia, generating a customer record and generating output material, both of which are done in a computer network environment, as seen in figure 1. The customer record is generated via data input computer 4, wherein the output material is generated via output constructor 10. Further, as seen in Applicant's specification, each worker is defined as a self-contained application program that performs a specific piece of work (page 18, lines 11-13).

***Examiner's Amendment***

3. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

4. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Victor on June 10, 2004. The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

10. (Currently amended) In line 20, delete "if" and replace with --in response to setting-- and delete "is" and replace with --to--.
12. (Currently amended) In line 21, delete "if" and replace with --in response to setting-- and delete "has" and replace with --status to--.

***Reasons for Allowance***

5. Claims 3-13, 16-26, and 29-39 are allowed.
6. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to independent claims 3, 16, and 29, none of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach inter alia, generating with a first worker, output material from processing the product and customer preference fields in the customer record for the selected job by, processing a template including queries of records in the database table, accessing at least one value in a field in one customer record to include in a query against the database table, and applying the query against the database table to determine a record associated with a file including fields matching the query, accessing at least one content file associated with the determined record, and generating the content from the at least one accessed content file into the template, which forms the output material.

With respect to independent claims 7, 20, and 33, none of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach inter alia, providing a worker transition table including a plurality of records, each indicating an input worker, a completion state, an output worker, and an output state, wherein setting the status for the selected job in the job status table comprises determining from the worker transition table one record having an input worker and completion state matching the current worker and the job status, respectively, and setting the status for the selected job to the output state and the current worker to the output worker.

With respect to independent claims 10, 23, and 36, none of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach inter alia, setting the status to a third status after adding the job in the job status table, invoking a data conditioning worker in response to setting the job status for the selected job to the third status, processing with the data conditioning worker, the customer record to determine whether at least one value satisfies at least one condition, taking corrective actions with the data conditioning worker, if the data in the customer record does not satisfy each condition, and setting the status of the selected job to the first status if the data in the customer record satisfies each condition.

With respect to independent claims 12, 25, and 38, none of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach inter alia, generating information on the output material, setting the status for the selected job in the job status table to a third status, invoking an accounting worker in response to setting the job status to the third status, processing, with the accounting worker, the

generated information on the output material to determine costs of generating the output material, and generating, with the accounting worker, an invoice including the determined costs of the output material.

The prior art references most closely resembling Applicant's claimed invention are Yosefi (USPN 5,649,220), Hsu et al (USPN 5,581,691), and Milsted et al (USPN 6,345,256)

Yosefi discloses a workflow manager, including a record stored in a database and a workflow definition unit. The workflow definition unit defines the desired workflow to be followed for the job and provides tools to form the initial workflow. The initial workflow is an outline of the operations to be performed. Each record of the workflow database is organized to store the workflow and the task information regarding the performance of each of the blocks of the workflow. The workflow manager provides the user with a selection of devices to operate and initiates operation of the selected device. The selection is done via the selection area which comprises a menu of devices for the user to select. The workflow manager also stores the names of output data files. However, Yosefi does not disclose processing a template including queries of records in the database table, accessing at least one value in a field in one customer record to include in a query against the database table, and applying the query against the database table to determine a record associated with a file including fields matching the query, processing with the data conditioning worker, the customer record to determine whether at least one value satisfies at least one condition, taking corrective actions with the data conditioning

worker, if the data in the customer record does not satisfy each condition, and setting the status of the selected job to the first status if the data in the customer record satisfies each condition, and invoking an accounting worker in response to setting the job status to the third status, processing, with the accounting worker, the generated information on the output material to determine costs of generating the output material.

Hsu et al disclose a history database which is a log record database that can be inspected to determine the status of any ongoing workflows and to reconstruct ongoing workflows when recovering from a system failure. Hsu et al also disclose a set of tables called the workflow description database. The relationships between the steps of a workflow as well as other information needed to define and execute the workflow are stored in the form of a set of database tables. However, Hsu et al does not disclose accessing at least one value in a field in one customer record to include in a query against the database table, and applying the query against the database table to determine a record associated with a file including fields matching the query, processing with the data conditioning worker, the customer record to determine whether at least one value satisfies at least one condition, taking corrective actions with the data conditioning worker, if the data in the customer record does not satisfy each condition, and setting the status of the selected job to the first status if the data in the customer record satisfies each condition, and invoking an accounting worker in response to setting the job status to the third

status, processing, with the accounting worker, the generated information on the output material to determine costs of generating the output material.

Milsted et al disclose a workflow manager used to schedule, track, and manage content processing activities, via application programming interfaces which feed the jobs to the next required process. The workflow manager also has an interface which provides for job scheduling, management, and queries. However, Milsted et al does not disclose accessing at least one value in a field in one customer record to include in a query against the database table, and applying the query against the database table to determine a record associated with a file including fields matching the query, processing with the data conditioning worker, the customer record to determine whether at least one value satisfies at least one condition, taking corrective actions with the data conditioning worker, if the data in the customer record does not satisfy each condition, and setting the status of the selected job to the first status if the data in the customer record satisfies each condition, and invoking an accounting worker in response to setting the job status to the third status, processing, with the accounting worker, the generated information on the output material to determine costs of generating the output material.

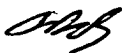
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre Boyce whose telephone number is (703) 305-1867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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